

VOTING INFORMATION NEWS

A roundup of voting news from the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) ✓ ✓ For voters, potential voters and those who assist voters.

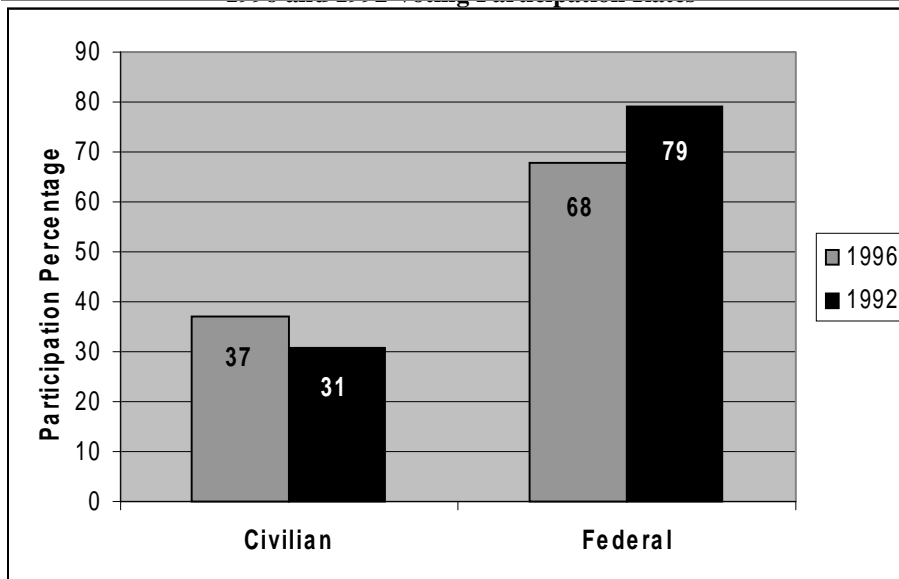
Survey Results - Continued from July VIN

6% Increase In Overseas Civilians Participation Rate

The official results from the 1996 Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) Post-Election Survey reflect the voting participation rate by citizens living overseas who are not affiliated with the Federal Government increased six percent to 37%. The voting participation rate for Federally employed overseas citizens reflected 68%, which is 19% higher than the 49% rate demonstrated by the general public.

The high participation rates are due to the strong volunteer support given to the absentee voting program by many U.S. citizen organizations and Federal employee offices overseas during the last election cycle. This cooperation is expected to expand in 1998 with the Voting Assistance Officer Network and the FVAP's Overseas Civilian Voting Action Plan (see article at right).

Table 1: Overseas Citizens: Non-Federally Employed and Federally Employed 1996 and 1992 Voting Participation Rates



Slogan Contest a Success!

The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) was inundated with a tide of e-mail, faxes and mail that peaked on June 30, which marked the last day of the 1997-1998 Voting Slogan Contest. Over 8000 motivational slogans were received from United States citizens worldwide. All of the slogan entries have been submitted to the judges who will evaluate the entries according to criteria of originality and motivational value. The winning slogan will be announced in September.

The FVAP thanks all those who participated in this year's Slogan Contest and commends the participants for their wealth of creativity. The slogans truly reflected a deep belief in the power and root of democracy. Congratulations to all slogan entry participants for a truly remarkable effort.

Volunteer Today!

Become a Voting Assistance Officer for Your Civilian Organization

In striving to better serve overseas citizens in understanding how to participate in their democratic process and motivate them to participate, the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) is formally developing an overseas citizens Voting Assistance Officer network. This network will be the formal structure utilized by the FVAP to ensure more U.S. citizens overseas are enfranchised.

At the present time we are entering the primary contacts in the FVAP database. To establish this network for the 1998 election year and future election years, we are requesting that the designated Voting Assistance Officer from each organization participate for a two year tenure. This contact will become part of the FVAP's formal network database and will serve as the primary organization point of contact to carry out an effective voting assistance program.

The FVAP will provide a Voting Assistance Kit with guidance and resources to assist each organization's Voting Assistance Officer including:

- ♦ 1998-99 Overseas Citizen Voting Action Plan
- ♦ FVAP's Voting Assistance News Releases
- ♦ *Voting Information News* Newsletter
- ♦ Other necessary materials

(see **Civilian VAO** pg 2)

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(Civilian VAO from pg 1)

The organization Voting Assistance Officer's responsibilities will also include:

- ♦ Expanding citizen outreach within the local community to include direct contact with civic groups, American Chambers of commerce, colleges and universities, and similar organizations.
- ♦ Serving as coordinator for the FVAP's on-site and video teleconferencing workshops.
- ♦ Planning and ensuring that overseas U.S. citizens, including eligible family members, are informed of current registration and voting procedures and the importance of participating in the democratic process. The briefings should begin 60 days before an election and be repeated during the week of Overseas Citizens Voters Week which begins June 28, 1998.
- ♦ Conducting voter registration drives.
- ♦ Ensuring in-hand delivery of FPCAs to overseas U.S. citizens no later than September 7, 1998.
- ♦ Submitting a formal report to the Director, FVAP, no later than December 1998, on the voter outreach efforts conducted during the election year.

If this sounds interesting and you would like more information please contact the FVAP using the toll-free phone numbers listed on page three of this newsletter. Sherri Morris can directly assist you during normal business hours, Eastern Time, or a recorded message may be left during non-FVAP business hours. Please be sure to provide complete contact information when leaving a message. You may become a Voting Assistance Officer by completing the form on page four of this newsletter and faxing or mailing it to the FVAP using the numbers below. You can also volunteer by sending an e-mail (including all the information from the form on page four) to vote@fvap.gov.

Formalizing the Voting Assistance Officer network is designed to ensure further enfranchisement of Americans overseas and to bring more continuity in our voting assistance efforts. We hope to hear from your organization soon!

www.fvap.gov

Visitors to the FVAP's site on the World Wide Web can access the *Voting Assistance Guide* for procedures on requesting registration and an absentee ballot from their state or territory of voting residence. The web site also has a depiction of the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA, SF 76) and the Federal Write In Absentee Ballot (FWAB, SF 186) forms.



Voting Assistance Officers

"To Do" This Month

[] Check to be sure all persons you assist (including family members) are aware of upcoming elections in their state (see schedule page 3) and that they have the necessary know-how and materials to participate.

[] Do you want to receive this newsletter and FVAP news releases electronically? E-mail your contact information to vote@fvap.gov or fax or mail the address label on page 4 using the number and addresses below to receive these materials via the Internet.

[] Visit the FVAP's site on the World Wide Web frequently for current information and resources from the FVAP as well as links to other sites of interest in carrying out your VAO duties. Encourage others to visit the site as well at www.fvap.gov.

Site visitors will soon be able to access the current issue and back-issues of the FVAP's *Voting Information News* newsletter, FVAP election information news releases, the FVAP's Post-Election Survey results and up-to-date election results. Links to the Home Pages of Secretaries of State and Directors of Election are also available. The FVAP Home Page is regularly updated so citizens are encouraged to visit the site often.

Federal Voting Assistance Program

Voting Information News provides information for citizens and Voting Assistance Officers and is published monthly by the staff of the Federal Voting Assistance Program.

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Internet

vote@fvap.gov
<http://www.fvap.gov>

YOUR VOTE IS THE ONE THAT MATTERS



Note: Copying or using VIN articles in other publications, etc. is encouraged.

**Consult
your
Voting
Assistance
Guide,
your
Voting
Assistance
Officer
and FVAP
News
Releases
for
details
on
how
to
participate!**



1997 Statewide and Mayoral Election Calendar (for 50 largest cities)

Election	Jurisdiction	Primary	General
Gov./State Senate/ Gen. Assem.	New Jersey (Statewide)	Held June 3	NOV 4
Gov./Lt. Gov./ Att. Gen./Hse of Del.	Virginia (Statewide)	Held June 10	NOV 4
Mayoral	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	Held May 20	NOV 4
Mayoral	Buffalo, New York	SEPT 9	NOV 4
Mayoral	Detroit, Michigan	SEPT 9	NOV 4
Mayoral	Minneapolis, Minnesota	SEPT 9	NOV 4
Mayoral	New York City, New York	SEPT 9	NOV 4
Mayoral	St. Paul, Minnesota	SEPT 9	NOV 4
Mayoral	Toledo, Ohio	SEPT 9	NOV 4
Mayoral	Seattle, Washington	SEPT 16	NOV 4
Mayoral	Boston, Massachusetts	SEPT 23	NOV 4
Mayoral	Charlotte, North Carolina	SEPT 23	NOV 4
Mayoral	Cleveland, Ohio	SEPT 30	NOV 4
Mayoral	Atlanta, Georgia	SEPT 30	NOV 4
Mayoral	Cincinnati, Ohio	SEPT 30	NOV 4
Mayoral	Houston, Texas	SEPT 30	NOV 4
Mayoral	Miami, Florida	NOV 4	NOV 13

Ombudsman Service

The FVAP's Ombudsman Services is there to help you if you cannot resolve your voting concern locally. You can contact the service by regular mail, e-mail, fax or phone.

In the U.S.

1-800-438-8683
 Antigua 1-800-326-0220
 Australia 0014-800-128509
 Bahamas 180-995-09-20
 Bahrain 800-621
 Barbados 800-534-2104
 Belgium 078-111-455
 Bermuda 800-623-0077
 Brazil 000-811-926-5585
 Canada 800-995-0920
 Chile 00-020-3071
 Colombia 980-12-0896
 Costa Rica 0-800-011-0125

Denmark 800-10-169
 Dominican Rep. 800-751-7131
 Finland 9800-156-284
 France 0-800-900-156
 Germany 013-081-9277
 Greece 008-001-22-586
 Hong Kong 800-6984
 Hungary 00-800-11-158
 Ireland 1-800-557-083
 Israel 177-102-4012
 Italy 1-678-72-444
 Indonesia 00-800-1-923-3685
 Japan 0031-11-2429
 Liechtenstein 1-155-4514
 Luxembourg 0-800-2499
 Malaysia 800-2170
 Mexico 95-800-010-1438
 Monaco 0-59-00-156
 Netherlands 06-022-2499

Neth. Antilles 001-800-753-0767
 New Zealand 0-800-44-0799
 Norway 800-12093
 Panama 0083-28027-4197
 Philippines 1-800-116-0009
 Portugal 0501-8-13-035
 San Marino 1-678-72-444
 Singapore 800-1300-210
 South Korea 0078-14-800-0203
 Spain 900-93-1108
 Sweden 020-793-503
 Switzerland 155-4514
 Taiwan 0080-10-3153
 Thailand 001-800-1-1-923-6685
 Trinidad&Tobago 1-800-934-7340
 United Kingdom 0-800-895-7403
 Uruguay 000-411-923-7985
 Vatican City 1678-72-4444

State Department: Office of American Citizens Services

Voting Action Officer: Mr. Patrick Hegerty **tel:** (202) 647-6060 **tel FTS:** 8-647-4994, **fax:** (202) 647-6201

Service Voting Action Officers

Dept. of the Army: Mr. Tom Feazell **tel:** (703) 325-4530 **tel DSN:** 221-4530, **fax:** (703) 325-4532, **fax DSN:** 221-4532
E-mail: feazellt@hoffman-ehml.army.mil

Dept. of the Navy: Lt. Stephanie Nordhoff **tel:** (703) 693-0816

Dept. of the Air Force: Mr. John Lowrance **tel:** (210) 652-4369 **tel DSN:** 487-4369, **fax:** (210) 652-5982, **fax DSN:** 487-5982
E-mail: barnards@hq.afpc.af.mil

Marine Corps: GySgt Elijah Kinton **tel:** (703) 696-2026 **tel DSN:** 426-2026, **fax:** (703) 696-2068, **fax DSN:** 426-2068
ELMS [GMHP03:HQIHQMC]; **Internet:** kinton_jre@hqi.usmc.mil; **E-mail:** kinton@mhp@hqmc

U.S. Coast Guard: LCDR Reggie Sealey **tel:** (202) 267-2239, **fax:** (202) 267-4823

E-mail: CTOS/SWS-II: rsealy@comdt.uscg.mil/mailgatehq

All of the above can be reached through the DoD Voting Information Center and the FVAP WEB Site <http://www.fvap.gov>

Please share this copy of VIN with others.

Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) Civilian Voting Assistance Officer Application Form

Instructions: Fill out the blanks below and return to the FVAP. No cover sheet is necessary when faxing.

Name: _____

**Name of
Organization:** _____

Title: _____

**Mailing
Address:** _____

**E-mail
Address:** _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Expected term length for the Voting Assistance Person to serve in this position (Two year term recommended for consistency through election cycle.) _____

Additional Comments: _____

Federal Voting Assistance Program
Washington, DC 20301-1155



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